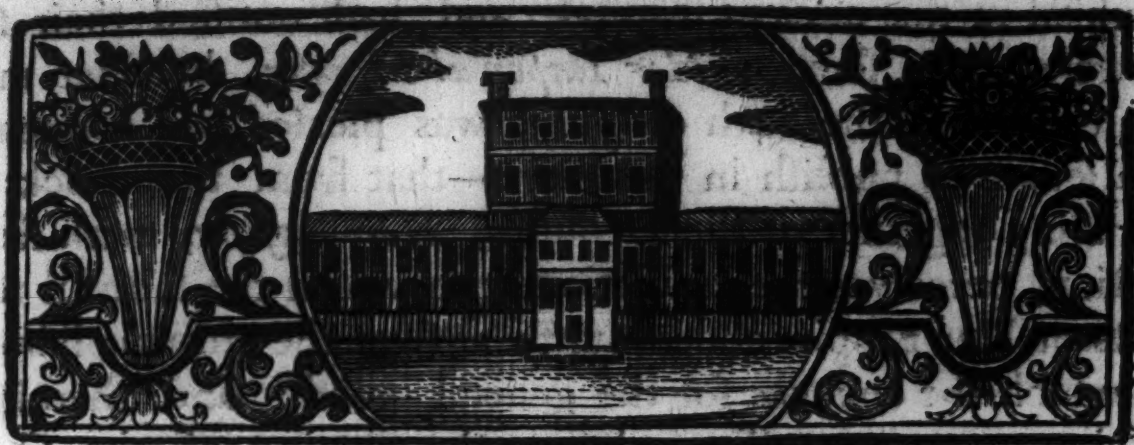


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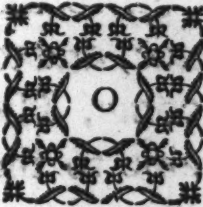
ma
In which the COMMISSION, for establishing
A NEW CODE of LAWS,
Was opened at MOSCOW,
On FRIDAY the Third Day of AUGUST, 1767.

Translated from the RUSSIAN Language
By MICHAEL TATISCHEFF, a Russian Gentleman.



A

DESCRIPTION, &c.


 N Monday the 30th of July, the inhabitants of this city saw, with inexpressible joy, that remarkable event, which establishes the immortal glory of *Her Imperial Majesty*, our most gracious legislatrix and sovereign, and our prosperity; which through Her tenderness, compassion and humanity, is now raised to the highest summit; and which will not only remain an everlasting memorial to latest posterity; but will especially impress on the hearts of the sons of our country, in all times to come, gratitude, love, and true veneration for the author of this our happiness. The Commission for establishing a new Code of Laws was opened in the following manner:

When the senate had most submissively represented, by a report to *Her Imperial Majesty*, that after the publication of a manifesto of the 14th of December 1766, the greatest part

of

of the Deputies, chosen out of the whole empire, were assembled in this ancient capital, and had notified their full powers to the senate; *Her Imperial Majesty*, by Her most high order of the 24th of July, was pleased to command the senate to publish in this city;—that from the quick assembling together of the Deputies, *Her Majesty*, with satisfaction, perceives the emulation with which the faithful subjects of Her Empire endeavour to answer the arduous labours in which she engages for the general good; and therefore, willing not to put off any longer the opening of the Commission, she, by her most high orders, commands it to be opened on the 30th of July.

To execute this *Her Imperial Majesty's* especial command, the magistrates, by order of the senate, notified through this city the day on which it was to be opened; signifying at the same time to the Deputies, by a private edict, that they might assemble on the 30th day of July, at 7 o'clock in the morning, at the Chudove Monastery, in order to go to the Cathedral Church of Uspensky, to hear divine service, and to take their oaths. When this solemn day was come, His Excellency Count Wiasensky, Attorney General, came to the Chudove Monastery, and placed the High Commissioners of the senate in different chambers, where the Deputies of the Provinces were to assemble, that they might shew the Deputies their places, and the order of the procession. There were three chambers appointed for that purpose, and the Commissioners, Narishkin, Masalove, and Maslove receiving the Deputies as they assembled, appointed them their places.

In the mean time *Her Imperial Majesty*, wearing on Her Sacred Head a small crown, and being cloathed in Her Imperial Robes, was pleased to go from Anninhophe to Kreml in the following manner, at nine o'clock in the morning.

*The Procession of Her Imperial Majesty, from
Anninhophe to Kreml.*

1.

An open coach and fix horses for the Master of the Ceremonies, before which two Grooms, and between them the Master of the Waggon rode on horse-back.

2.

Two coaches and fix horses with the Knights belonging to his Imperial Highness.

3.

Four coaches and fix with the Gentlemen of the Chamber.

4.

Three coaches and fix with the Chamberlains, and a Gentleman of the horse, who rode on the right side of the last coach.

5.

A coach and fix horses with *Her Majesty's* Secretaries.

6.

Three coaches and fix with the Chief Generals and a Gentleman of the Horse; who rode on the right side of the last of those coaches.

7.

Two open coaches and fix, in which sat *Her Majesty's* Marshals of the Household with their wands.

B

8. Before

8.

Before *Her Majesty's* coach rode two Grooms of the Bed Chamber, and between them a Gentleman Usher; then ten Lacquays, five on each side, and behind them eight Grooms on horse-back: between the two first of these a Gentleman of the Horse, and between the two last, before the coach, a Colonel on horse-back.

9.

Her Imperial Majesty in a state coach drawn by eight horses; at each horse's side a Groom walked with a riding rod in his hand, and the coach was preceded by four running footmen, and two blacks, who walked two and two.

On each side of the coach walked eight Haydukes, four on each side.

On the right side of *Her Majesty's* coach rode the Master of the Horse and the General aid de Camp; and on the left the Equerry, and the General of the Police.

The coach was followed by a company of cavalier guards under the command of His Excellency Count Gregory Orlove their chief.

10.

His Imperial Highness in a coach and six horses. Four Lacquays rode before the coach, and between them a Groom of the Bed Chamber; then four Grooms, and between the two last of these a Gentleman of the Horse; on the right side of the coach was the Master of the Equipage, and on the left a Gentleman Usher, all on horse-back.

11.

An occasional coach and a set of horses belonging to the *Empress*.

12.

A coach and six horses with the first Lady of Honour, near which the Master of the Equipage rode on horse-back.

13:

Two coaches and six with the Ladies of Honour.

14.

Five coaches and six with the Maids of Honour.

N. B. All the servants that belonged to the court and to the stables, that attended in this ceremony, were cloathed in their best liveries.

Soon after the arrival of *Her Imperial Majesty* at the Cathedral church of Uspensky, the procession of the Deputies began. They walked two and two, and at the head of them His Excellency Prince Wiazensky, having in his hand a Marshal's staff given to him by *Her Imperial Majesty* for this most important occasion. The order of the procession of the Deputies was as follows.

1. The Deputies of the highest order. 2. Those of the Province of Moscow. 3. Of Kiew. 4. Of St. Petersburg. 5. Of Novogorod. 6. Of Kasan. 7. Of Astracan. 8. Of Siberia. 9. Of Ircootsk. 10. Of Smolensko. 11. Of Estonia. 12. Of Livonia. 13. Of Wiborg. 14. Of Nisnagorod. 15. Of Little Russia. 16. Of the country of Ukrain. 17. Of Voronege. 18. Of Belgorod. 19. Of Archangelgorod. 20. Of Orenburg. 21. Of New Russia; and the Deputies of the districts followed every one after their chief Deputies. First those of the gentry, the towns, afterwards those of the farmers and other old servants of the state, and lastly, those of the common people; and the Deputies of the Cofack troops had

next those of

had their places with the Deputies of the Provinces, in which they live, after the Deputies of the Towns. During the time of the procession, the multitude of people that had waited from day break, and could not accommodate themselves in the streets, crowded upon the roofs, and in the windows of the houses: one might see in the countenance of every patriot a lively appearance of expectation mixed with eagerness, the earnest wishes of a prosperous issue, and at the same time the overflowings of a grateful sensibility.

When the procession had entered the Cathedral, the Deputies of the Greek profession heard divine service; which was performed amidst a great assembly of the clergy, by the archbishop of Krootitsky, whilst those, who were not of the same communion, stood at the church door.

After the Holy Service the Litany was begun with an universal prayer to God Almighty, the Author of every blessing, “that he would send down his Holy Spirit to assist on this occasion so important and so agreeable to His will; and that He would grant health and prosperity to the author of it, the *Gracious Mother* of her country.”

The prayers were read by Demetrius, Metropolitan of Novogorod, and Deputy of the Holy Synod, assisted by five more bishops. After the Te Deum was sung, the bishop of Twer began an admonitory discourse in the following manner.

In the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

THE most glorious and most divine business now draws to a conclusion: the merciful God at length by his Providence compleats his designs in raising Russia to the highest degree of prosperity. Russia advances towards the summit of its happiness; the church of Christ receives the
reward

reward of its piety. In this beloved society God plants tranquillity, calmness, safety, and his worthy love, and can there be any thing more glorious and more divine?

Most Gracious Sovereign! These blessings Russia owes to *Your Imperial Majesty*; all your works excite our wonder and demonstrate Your care of us. Thou art the Dear Mother of thy country, Thou hast encompassed Russia on all sides with peace! But now Your zeal for Christian piety, Your mercy, which extends even to the meanest of Your subjects, Your maternal sympathy, by which You share in their misery, and Your infinite indulgence gives them boldness here assembled together before Your Majesty, to represent their necessities. Happy to behold Your disinterested and perfect justice, Your love, that embraces all Russia, in order to bring it into a flourishing situation, to protect innocence from all danger and oppression, to give stability, and excite in every one the love of virtue and detestation of vice, and prescribing to all the just bounds of their several duties! Your wisdom, which found out suitable means to attain this end, Your continual care and pains, which have so soon made a beginning in this great affair, bring with it to Russia internal calmness and tranquillity. This is most illustrious; it animates and will still excite our admiration, and eternize the glory of Your Name, and that of Russia! This is an Holy business; for it promotes the Glory of God, and accomplishes His will, and because it operates through the participation of His Grace, blessed art Thou of God, who effects all this by Thee!

Venerable Hearers! who prepare yourselves to execute this design of Our Great and incomparable Sovereign, and considering the importance of this business, prepare yourselves to follow Her wise ordinances, and to co-operate with Her for the prosperity of Russia; do you not respect the Legislatrix? and do you not represent to yourselves that delight, which

the Creator takes in such a work? Governing this world by His most wise Providence and Holiness, to the purposes of His infinite goodness? You know that law is a Rule, the foundation of which the Creator laid in human nature, and by which He points out, how a man may arrive at perfection: but when you take into consideration the community, can you view the laws of that community in any other light than that of a Rule, which has its foundation in the essence of the community, and points out, how it may attain to its perfection? Each community is composed of those people, in whom the law of God has its foundation, and for the perfection of whom He ordained it. Thus the Social Laws, though they immediately relate to the society in general; yet tend likewise to the prosperity of every individual, and therefore, by all the circumstances of the community, are the explication of that law, which is infused in every one of us from God. And so the laws of a community agreeing with the laws of God, they raise humanity, and bring it to its full perfection, and thus glorify the Great Legislator. Nevertheless the foundation of this law is love and veneration towards God, and this forms the true prosperity of a man in every condition.

It is this that moved the heart of Our most pious Sovereign to establish the laws in the full measure of justice, and bring near that prosperity, which before was far from us.

The means to effect this are found out by the penetration of Our Sovereign. We know that we shall receive from Her the Sacred laws. Happy is Russia, which has a wise and careful Sovereign; happy are ye, who are allowed the honour to present Her with your opinions!

Venerable gentlemen! the cause of your present honour and election to this great business are those excellent qualities, which Your Sovereign finds in you; which the community respect, and with which God has endowed you: answer then

then Her wise and useful ordinances, and prove to Her your submissive fidelity. Nourish the hopes and expectation of your beloved country, which honours you so highly. Cultivate the talent which you have received from God, devote it to the Almighty by your exact observance and conformity to His law, and by that render the deserved honour to the Legislator. Loosen your love from narrow, selfish bounds, and extend it to every one. Sympathize and share in the miseries of others; respect the prosperity of every one in the Community, as much as if it was your own; and acknowledge, that even the misfortunes of the lowest in the community must be looked upon as a misfortune to the whole. Do your utmost endeavours to humanize and restrain them from vice and transgression of the law: Thus virtue and faith will remain inviolable, and Russia rise to its full prosperity.

My joy is mixed with dread, when I consider, that you, who are concerned in this momentous transaction, will appear before God, and by an oath will confirm—that you are not unduely biaſſed in these your resolutions.

“ Lord! withdraw the veil, which separates us from Thee,
 “ that we may clearly see Thy Majesty, to animate ourselves
 “ with proper sentiments of Thy justice, and in the time of
 “ performing these our oaths, to enjoy Thy goodness!”

Venerable Auditors! you know that God by whom we live, we move, and have our being, is Omnipotent. You know how ready He is to hear every one that calls for His assistance. Herein consists the prosperity of Russia; you, who stand here in this Sacred place; which the Supreme Being fills with His awful presence, and who (you very well know) is the Guardian of Russia, now pass upon yourselves both judgment and sentence. The dread Solemnity! Be mindful of those words of God: Zachary, Chap. 5. Ver. 4. “Swearing will come into the house of him that shall swear by My
 “ Name

[12]

“ Name falsely, saith God Almighty, and will make its dwelling in the midst of his house, and will put an end to his life.” Remember that truth and justice are the basis of God’s Throne; you approach now to swear to God, who sees all things; who not only shall hear your words, but knows even the most secret recesses of your heart, and how far your thoughts agree with them. You are to swear to the eternal God, in whose Existence you cannot find that moment, in which He is absent or forgets these your oaths, or cannot see whether you perform them or not. You are to swear by your life to Him, in whose hands it is like dust in the hands of a strong man. You are to swear by your salvation to Him, who takes it away from the perfidious, and delivers them to eternal misery. Verily it is a tremendous affair, but yet a most glorious one! What is more dear than life, what is more dear than eternal happiness? A man who loses them, loses all for ever. But ye vigilant Patriots and true sons of your country, finding your conscience pure, lay it open before God, and before all the world. Your words will be a testimony to us that every one of you will speak thus before this God. God! if I, rejecting the fear of Thee, and forgetting my submissive fidelity to Our Sovereign, shall act contrary to this my Oath, and to the detriment of any member of the community, induced either by interest, or friendship, hatred, envy, or any other passion, then I deliver up for his honour, my honour; for his substance, my substance; for his prosperity, my prosperity; for his life, my life, and even my salvation to Thee, O just Judge! And as I adore Thee, my God, and Thou art the witness and Judge of these my Oaths, if I do not perform them I deliver myself wholly to Thy eternal judgment, and as this is dreadful to me, so the truth of Thy Gospel and Thy Laws is just as dear to me.

me, God! I comfort myself with my sincerity, and Thy judgment.

These tremendous words are the test of your impartiality, your sincerity and love to your country.

It cannot be supposed, but that this Oath will be discharged by you with due veneration and regard to your Creator. His Majesty, and your own interest are strong incitements, which must dispose you to holiness; for 'tis not sufficient merely to promise and confirm with an Oath by word of mouth only, which is to deceive God and the whole community. This lays a most dreadful load of guilt upon the conscience! To take an Oath with such deceit, is to represent God as the Protector of a lie. This is a most unpardonable offence to His Divinity! To call God to punish for perfidy, is to forget what we are about, and so to plunge ourselves into all kinds of misery. This is the dreadful condition of the perjured!

Will your thoughts, which are filled with the most honourable conceptions of God; will your hearts, which burn for Him, and for your Country; will your unfeigned veneration toward your Sovereign, and Your good inclinations suffer you to incur this?

Surely your consciousness of the dreadful state into which this Oath may plunge a mortal, will sufficiently enable you to avoid this evil.

Though you will invoke such judgments, and take such Oaths before God Almighty; before that God, from whose justice no perfidious man can possibly escape, and whose punishments are eternal punishments; yet the Purity of your thoughts represent Him to you benevolent, and the strict performance of your Oaths is the means, by which the wisdom of God chooses to crown you eternally. The Societies, by whom you are chosen, will esteem you honest and true Patriots, and after this life, yours will be those habitations,
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which are peopled with the faithful, and those who did not deceive God. This is your Glory!

Draw near to the most wise God, to the most Powerful, eternal and just Judge. He is now ready to hear your Oaths and observe your hearts. Dread his judgments, and comfort yourselves by His goodness; which will be the consequence of accomplishing your promises—of your Oath. AMEN.

After the conclusion of this discourse, pronounced with the amiable sweetness of piety, and received with Christian reverence, the following Oath was read aloud,

‘ I The underwritten remember and renew with this my
‘ Oath, my submissive fidelity to *Her Imperial Majesty*,
‘ and I promise and swear before Almighty God, and His
‘ Holy Gospel, that I will employ my sincere endeavours in
‘ this great affair, the establishment of New Laws, for which
‘ I am chosen a Deputy by my Fellow Citizens. I answer
‘ likewise to their trust, which they put in me, that this affair
‘ should be regulated by those principles that are agreeable to
‘ God, tending to promote humanity and good manners, and
‘ to the preservation, welfare and tranquillity of mankind;
‘ in which principles true justice has its source. I pray God
‘ Almighty at the same time, that He will give me strength
‘ to keep my heart from every thought which proceeds from
‘ error, partiality, self-interest, friendship, enmity, or from
‘ rancorous envy, whence might arise injustice and severity
‘ in my counsels. As for my own part I will act in this
‘ great affair, as well as my knowledge will direct, with con-
‘ stant fidelity to *Her Imperial Majesty*, my most Gracious
‘ Sovereign, with zeal to Her Service, and that of Her Heir
‘ to the Throne, with diligence for my beloved Country, with
‘ affection

‘affection to my fellow Citizens. And to conclude this my
 ‘Oath respecting my behaviour in establishing New Laws, I
 ‘kiss the Cross of my Saviour. Amen. And in witness
 ‘thereof I subscribe my Name.’

On the Original signed thus : { Sergius Kosmin, actual
 Counsellor of State.

After this the Deputies kissed the Cross and the Gospel, and subscribed the Oath upon Desks, which had been placed in different parts of the Church, by direction of Mr. Hoorieff, chief Secretary of the Senate. In the mean time *Her Imperial Majesty* came from the Cathedral into the room of Audience.

When the Deputies had subscribed the Oath, the Attorney General conducted them to the Imperial Throne, and the *Empress* being under a Canopy of State, the Attorney General, with submissive reverence, approached, and signified, that he had the happiness to present to *Her Imperial Majesty* the Deputies assembled by Her high Order from all parts of *Her Majesty's* extensive Dominions. On the left side of the Throne His Imperial Highness the Grand Duke was present as a spectator of this august solemnity, being surrounded by all the noble persons of the Court, and the foreign Ministers. On the right side was the first Lady of Honour, with the Ladies and Maids of Honour, and others of the two first ranks of Noble Ladies. On the second step of the Throne stood His Excellency the Vice Chancellor Prince de Galitzin, and near the Throne itself, on the right hand of *Her Majesty*, there was a table covered with velvet, upon which lay the Instructions, and the Form of the Commission, for enacting the New Laws.

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When the Deputies were brought before *Her Imperial Majesty*, the Metropolitan of Novogorod pronounced the following Speech.

Most Illustrious, Protectress, Grand Mistress, Empress, Sovereign of all Russia, the most careful Mother of our Country!

The most wise and divinely inspired Enterprise, which *Your Imperial Majesty* has undertaken, the institution of new Laws, and by them to represent truth in its natural purity and strength, is such an action, as the ancients had in the highest esteem. The present world looks upon it with admiration, and we, together with them, are astonished, giving thanks to God, who rules over all Kingdoms, that He has endowed *Your Majesty* with such excellent wisdom. Greece and Rome were renowned for their Legislators, but to compleat their fame the enlightening Doctrines of the Gospel were wanting, which are the surest foundation of Morality. But You in the present age are led in the right path. From the source of Christian Truth You draw Living water. There were among the Christian Greek Sovereigns some, who were honoured with the name of Legislators; but the course of things, pursuant to the unknown decrees of God, being changed, the stream stopped of itself.

But even in these mournful decrees of Thy Providence, we behold Thy goodness towards us. For after that, Religion was brought to us from the East, and the right of Legislation descended, as an inheritance, to Thee, Our august Head! through the appointment of Him, who beneficently disposes both of the present and the future. Seeing this Divine appointment evidently displayed in You Our august Sovereign! proceed in the way You have begun, and we Thy subjects,
Spiritual

[17]

Spiritual and Temporal, will to the same assisting God lift up our hands; that He may establish Your health, enlighten You with His eternal Wisdom, and that He may infuse into You that spirit, by which truth is emphatically declared. In the mean while we shall follow *Your Majesty*, by our readiness, fidelity, obedience, and all possible assistance. We shall follow, thinking ourselves obliged by our conscience, and the fear of God's judgments, to observe whatever is agreeable to eternal truth, and instrumental to the preservation of the Church of God, and of our Country, and that may administer to the Glory of Your Empire. And you who are called to this great affair, you to whose prudence and faithfulness the Community has entrusted its prosperity, you whom God has chosen and confirmed by His Anointed, do you co-operate together to the furtherance of *Her Imperial Majesty's* undertaking. Represent to yourselves the Lord sitting upon Cherubims, examining the Hearts and inward affections; that God, who loves truth, and who hates those that transgress His Laws. Keeping this always in your memory, demonstrate by your prudence, that your Country might well depend upon you. Shew by your diligence, that you are zealous Patriots, and by your guiltless conscience, that you are true Christians: and do Thou, O God! fully establish this beneficial undertaking, which Thou hast made appear in our days, and cause, by Thy excellent Wisdom, that from it may issue, together with Thy Glory, the Glory of Our Sovereign, and the Glory of our beloved Country! At the happy beginning of this great business, the assembled Deputies from the whole body of the Community, with their hearts and mouths, present to Thee, our most careful Protectress! their most submissive gratitude for Thy attention to our prosperity, and Thy Motherly regard; and most earnestly desire, that Thou wouldst direct us by Thy Wisdom,

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inspect our Labours with a mother's compassionate eye, and that Thou wouldst encompass and defend us by Thy Sovereign Protection: and most submissively we ask for Thy farther high orders.

To this Speech, which declared the happiness of Russia in the choice of Her representatives, His Excellency Prince de Galitzin the Vice-Chancellor answered by *Her Imperial Majesty's* most high order in the following most eloquent and animated Speech, with suitable Exhortations to all, who were engaged in this important Business.

The Speech of the Vice-Chancellor to the Deputies after their taking the Oaths, and presenting themselves to Her Imperial Majesty.

“ Gentlemen!

“ **H**ER Imperial Majesty, with satisfaction, beholds now
 “ assembled before Her Throne, the Deputies of the
 “ Governments under Her Empire, and of all the people
 “ subjected to Her Scepter, in consequence of the Manifesto
 “ published the 14th of December 1766, which brought you
 “ together.

“ *Her Imperial Majesty*, whose maternal tenderness ex-
 “ tends to all Her subjects, was much pleased to find with
 “ what readiness Her order was received by all kinds of
 “ people, and that every one united in whatever might pro-
 “ mote this great affair, for which they were ordered to send
 “ you into this ancient Metropolis. On the part of *Her Im-*

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“ *perial Majesty*, it has already been set forth in the above
“ ever memorable Manifesto ;—that Her desire is to see Her
“ people enjoy as much happiness as this world can give.
“ Sentiments, which have been a Rule to *Her Imperial*
“ *Majesty* in all Her undertakings, from Her accession to
“ this day ; Sentiments, to which, under the blessing of
“ God, all Her success ought to be attributed ; and which
“ have excited that confidence of filial love to Her Person,
“ which is not only easy to be perceived in every one here
“ present, but is clearly shewn from the many articles of
“ your Instructions. Nothing is left, therefore, to *Her Im-*
“ *perial Majesty* to wish for, and to command you, but this
“ only—that, having by your Prayers invoked the assistance
“ of the Giver of all Goodness, and friend of Truth, the
“ Almighty God, and being conscious of the obligations of
“ your Oaths, you present yourselves here this day, in
“ order to enter on this great affair. An affair to which
“ you are called, and the great purpose, for which you re-
“ ceive Instructions from the hands of *Her Imperial Majesty*,
“ and a Commission to enact New Laws, to be offered up to
“ *Her Imperial Majesty* for Her most high confirmation.

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“ Enter then on this important business, and remember at
“ every line, that you have an opportunity of proving to
“ yourselves, your neighbours, and your posterity, how stre-
“ nuous your endeavours were, for the Common Good and
“ Welfare of Mankind, and for introducing into the hearts
“ of the people good manners and humanity, and for the
“ promotion of the tranquillity, universal safety and prospe-
“ rity of your dear fellow Citizens.

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“ You have now an opportunity of rendering yourselves,
“ and the age in which you live, famous, and of acquiring
“ the esteem and gratitude of all future ages.

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“ It is from you that all Nations under the Sun expect an
“ example; their eyes are all fixed upon you. Your fame
“ is in your own hands; and the way opened to you to
“ compleat it will depend on your agreement in all things,
“ which are useful to your Country.

“ *Her Imperial Majesty*, at length perfectly assured, that
“ each of you will imprint all these motives on his own
“ heart, and bring them into execution with such good
“ wishes, diligence, and love to His Country, as *Her Impe-*
“ *rial Majesty* has Herself set an example of, by putting to-
“ gether the Instructions for this important Commission, gives
“ you now full power to enter on this solemn undertaking,
“ with which you are intrusted.

“ To this purpose depart ye in peace !”

At the time of pronouncing this speech, *Her Imperial Majesty* was most graciously pleased to deliver to the Attorney General the order for regulating the Commission for the New Code of Laws.—The Instructions for the Attorney General—and the Grand Instructions in the Commission for enacting the New Laws. And then was pleased to admit, in their order, all the Deputies, of whom there were more than four hundred, to kiss Her hand, which they did kneeling, and with hearts big with the sentiments of everlasting gratitude.

In this manner *Her Imperial Majesty* concluded the first step; which leads our blessed Country to sure prosperity, Glory, and Greatness, and was afterwards pleased to return to Anninhoppe in the state and manner before described; and the Deputies had notice to assemble on the morrow for the first sitting, in order to chuse their Marshall.

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ON Sunday the 12th of August the Deputies had the happiness to testify with reverence their submissive thankfulness to *Her Imperial Majesty*, for the Instructions, which Our humane Protectress, the most Illustrious Empress and Sovereign, CATHERINE ALEXIEVNA, by Her own Labour had composed, and was pleased to give them for establishing a New Code of Laws. We at the same time have seen on that Solemn day, when the Deputies testified their gratitude, how far Our Mother and Patroness is from extending Her Glory by Name only, and not by actions, and that Her tenderness and piety exceed all the titles, which express, however truly, the Heroick Dignity of Her Soul. This will appear from the following relation of this ever memorable transaction.

On the 30th of July last Our most wise and humane Sovereign admitted to Her Throne the several Deputies elected throughout Her Empire, and was pleased to deliver to them the Instructions, which She had Herself composed for their guide in the work of Legislation; these being read to the full assembly of faithful Deputies, their hearts, and the hearts of all present, were inflamed with love, and obedience to so excellent a Sovereign; who in those Her Instructions had laid down the true Rule of piety, social love, justice, civil freedom, and of whatever conduces to the preservation of mankind, and leads it to its highest prosperity. They all admired the Wisdom of those *Her Majesty's* pious Instructions, and at the same time were affected with internal gratitude, contemp't-

ing the grandeur of an action, which is as the Crown, and completion of the many others, which *Her Majesty* has already performed. The assembled Deputies at the same time, unanimously agreed to request *Her Imperial Majesty* to appoint a day, wherein they might enjoy the happiness of appearing again before the Throne of *Her Majesty*, to acknowledge, as from the united hearts of the whole Empire, their submissive gratitude for the Rules contained in the Instructions, which She by Her Wisdom, and tenderness, had planned for the entire welfare of Her people. This the Deputies did on the 7th of August, and the same was accordingly declared by the Marshal Bibikoff in the General Assembly of the Deputies. They then elected out of their body four persons; namely, the most Reverend Demetrius Metropolitan of Novogorod, Deputy from the Holy Synod; Prince Wolchonky, Deputy from the Senate; Count Theodore Orloff, Deputy from the District of Orloff; and Alexander Vilboa, Deputy from the District of Derpt, to wait on their Most Gracious Sovereign for obtaining this request. On the 8th of August, Demetrius Metropolitan of Novogorod declared to the Marshal, and the Marshal to the General Assembly, that the Persons deputed had been admitted to *Her Majesty*, and that *Her Majesty* was pleased to promise, that She would appoint a particular day for the above-mentioned purpose. In the mean time they, who had remained till now only in silent veneration of the Divine endowments of Their Sovereign, soon determined what was due from the gratitude of Subjects to their most wise and most humane Monarch. On the 9th of August with eagerness and unanimity they agreed to offer these deserved Titles to *Her Majesty*.—CATHERINE THE GREAT, MOST WISE, MOTHER OF HER COUNTRY. On the 15th sitting it was declared to the whole Assembly by the Marshal, that *Her Imperial Majesty* was pleased to appoint the

the following Sunday, August 12, for the admission of the Deputies into Her presence. On that day at 11 o'Clock in the morning, the Deputies were assembled at Court, and waited for the arrival of *Her Imperial Majesty* in the great Hall. Our most Gracious Sovereign in the mean time attended the Divine Service in the Imperial Chapel, wearing upon Her Head a small Crown, and cloathed in Her Imperial Robes; and when the Service was over, was pleased to go into the great Hall with the principal attendants of Her Court, preceded by the Marshals with their wands in their hands, and followed by His Imperial Highness Her Heir, the Grand Duke Prince Paul Petrowitz. The numerous Deputies were ranged according to their Governments, Provinces, Towns, and Districts, and every one considering the arrival of His Gracious Monarch, as the æra of true happiness, held himself in readiness to offer that grateful tribute, which proceeded from hearts burning with love towards the beneficent Legislatrix. Whilst the *Empress*, seated on Her Throne, appeared to all as their tender Mother, and by Her magnanimity and majestick mien held all present in awe and admiration. There was a general silence among all that were assembled. Each with sincere gratitude was eager to have addressed his Sovereign with those Titles, which were to be offered Her; but was held in suspense, uncertain whether Her piety would permit Her to receive the Titles becoming, and worthy of an Heroine; yet firmly hoping, that the Glorious Titles, which are given by subjects to their beloved and celebrated Sovereigns, would not be refused, when offered in the Name of the Deputies from the whole body of the People. The Marshal at length spoke in the following manner.

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Most Gracious Sovereign,

“ **T**HE Instructions, which *Your Imperial Majesty* was
 “ pleased to deliver from the Throne, for the Establish-
 “ ment of a New Code of Laws, is a pledge of, and true
 “ foundation for, our welfare, and will be productive of the
 “ General good.

“ We the ready and Chosen sons of our Country, through
 “ the Divine blessing and Thy O Gracious Sovereign’s Great
 “ Wisdom, and being inspired by Thy great actions, and
 “ Thy daily attention to our welfare, came with great joy to
 “ the Metropolis, and firmly knew, when we should receive
 “ the promised Instructions, then we should behold the com-
 “ pletion of thy desire to see the people intrusted to Thy Scep-
 “ ter, arrive at the utmost boundary of humane happiness.

“ Truly most Gracious Sovereign ! Thy Instructions equal
 “ Thy desires ; but how far does *Your Imperial Majesty* ex-
 “ ceed our desires and even most flattering hopes ! We ex-
 “ pected prosperity according to the measure of our own
 “ Imagination ; *Your Imperial Majesty* hath conducted the
 “ welfare of Russia according to Thy own Magnanimous
 “ Soul !

“ Having favourably considered the Interest of Thy own
 “ Empire, Thou hast extended Thy views to every part of
 “ the Earth, gathering from each those customs and regula-
 “ tions which were most useful, as the Laborious Bee extracts
 “ its honey from each flower, and bringing them to Thy in-
 “ heritance, dost establish and make them flourish there,
 “ subduing even the rigour of the climate. Thou dost not
 “ only see our wants, but dost penetrate into the hidden causes

“ of them, which Thou dost correct. Thou hast not only
 “ furnished us with past happiness, but dost sow the seeds of
 “ future within our hearts. It is not with the severe fear
 “ of justice, that Thou dost restrain vice, but Thou dost root
 “ it out by Education.

“ By such benefits, promised only in Imagination, we might
 “ appear to flatter ourselves; but here we find them realized.
 “ All is great, all astonishes, and every thing surpasses the
 “ understanding of meer mortals : But reflecting on what You
 “ have already done for us, we clearly perceive that *Your*
 “ *Imperial Majesty* is truly establishing for future ages, fixed
 “ rules for the promotion of our welfare.

“ *Your Imperial Majesty* being by the wisdom of Your
 “ actions become the admiration of the World, You will by
 “ Your Instructions be the guide to future Sovereigns and the
 “ Patroness of Mankind.

“ It therefore ought to have been the general duty of Man-
 “ kind to be present here with us, and to have offered to
 “ *Your Imperial Majesty* the Title of Mother of the people ;
 “ But as in this universal Good we are principally interested,
 “ and therefore under the highest obligations, so Russia first,
 “ by the body of its elected Deputies, presents before Thy
 “ Throne those hearts, which swell with love and gratitude:

“ Behold their earnestness, as a Sacrifice only due to Thee !
 “ Great Empress ! Permit us to adorn ourselves in the sight of
 “ the World with this Glorious Title, that CATHERINE THE
 “ GREAT, THE MOST WISE, THE MOTHER OF HER
 “ COUNTRY rules over us ! Condescend most Gracious So-
 “ vereign to receive this Title, an offering from all Thy true
 “ Subjects, and by receiving it add resplendence to it. The
 “ world will follow our example and will call Thee, the
 “ Mother of Thy people !

“ This is the grateful voice of joyful Russia ! God grant,
 “ that this voice may extend through the Universe !”

When the Speech was finished, the Vice-Chancellor, Prince de Galitzin, who stood upon the steps of the Throne, on the right Side of *Her Imperial Majesty*, answered in Her name to the Deputies as follows.

“ Gentlemen !

“ **H**ER *Imperial Majesty* with so much the more Satisfaction receives the warmth of your expressions on reading Her principal Instructions, as they indicate that ardour, which you intend to shew to the world in carrying the rules prescribed in those Instructions into execution, and in bringing each Statute in your System of Laws, to an inviolable agreement with good manners and humanity, from whence the business, intrusted to you, will receive a stability not to be overthrown, and will, at the same time, prove to what height, gratitude and a zeal for virtue will extend, when it has the glorious opportunity of securing the welfare of Mankind. It is by this, that you will facilitate the Labours, and daily Employment of *Her Imperial Majesty*.

Her most Gracious Majesty from Her heart desires ; that the King of Kings may strengthen You in these benevolent purposes. It is He, who will assist and guide you in these arduous undertakings.

In Conclusion of this I am ordered by *Her Imperial Majesty* to inform you, of Her constant Benevolence towards you.”

Her Imperial Majesty was then pleased in Person to speak to the Deputies in these words. “ In regard to the Titles
“ which you desire I may accept from you, I answer—As to

“ the Title of Great, I must refer it to the Impartial Judgment of time and posterity ;— As to most Wise, none can call himself by that Name, for ^{there} is one God only who is most Wise ;— As to the Title of Mother of my Country, I esteem it My duty to love those my Subjects intrusted to Me by God, and to be beloved by them is My desire.”

This was a Divine answer representing in few words, Her Sweetness, piety and Parental affection. All who were present were astonished, and made an humble obeisance ; After this the Marshal and each Deputy had the honour to approach the Throne, and kneeling kissed the Sacred Hand of His humane Monarch, and beneficent Legislatrix, after whom the Director of the daily Minutes, Count Chouvalove with the Keepers of them and the rest of the Nobles, who were appointed to this Commission were admitted to the same honour.

Thus was concluded this important transaction, which will remain a respectable Monument to all future ages. *Her Imperial Majesty* accompanied by the same Court of State, was afterwards pleased to return into the Inner Chambers.

It excited our admiration to see that many foreign Ministers, present as Spectators, not only considered this transaction as a most extraordinary Event, but seemed even to wish, that Our Sublime Monarch of all Russia might set an example to all Christian Regencies in the World of ^{loving} towards their people, and of regard to their true Interest.

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